

REMARKS

Claims 11-20 are pending in the present application. Claim 11 has been amended.

In the Final Office Action dated June 30, 2004, the Examiner rejected, in particular, independent claim 11 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,717) to Mehrotra et al. Details of such rejection will not be reiterated here.

However, the main point of contention in this case lies in the Examiner's contention that an "individual object" "is not defined in the claim as being anything in particular, and therefore is left open to interpretation by the Examiner." Thus, the Examiner reasoned that an "individual object" could be interpreted so as to include "open spaces" as disclosed by the Mehrotra reference.

Applicant has consistently maintained that an "individual object," as part of a picture, refers to something which may be easily distinguished from the background of the picture. Conversely, "open space," as part of the picture, cannot be distinguished from the background as it typically, in fact, actually defines the background. Be that as it may, in an effort to better define the term "individual object" in sole independent claim 11 of the present application, such claim has been amended so as to include the following method step:

providing that said image sequence include individual objects which are respectively coded according to one of an MPEG standard and an ITU standard, said individual objects being at least one of audio objects and video objects;

Pursuant to the above described amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the term "individual object" could not possibly be interpreted so as to include the "open spaces" as disclosed by the Mehrotra reference. Moreover, the claimed "feature sets" for such individual objects cannot be deemed equivalent to metadata as disclosed by Mehrotra given that such open space metadata merely includes quantified open space region depictive properties.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 11 of the present application, as well as claims 12-20 which respectfully depend therefrom, are both novel and non-obvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is further acknowledged that a three-month extension of time of \$1020.00 is due in connection with this response at this time. If any additional fees are due in connection with this Application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from deposit account number 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. (0112740-408) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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